



November 4, 2015

DHH Freezes Waiver Slots to Address Mid-Year Deficit

Advocates were disheartened when the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) announced on Friday that it would stop offering waiver slots to people with developmental disabilities as part of a plan to address a \$186.1 million state general fund mid-year deficit. Exceptions will be made for individuals in emergency situations to prevent out-of-home placement and individuals transitioning out of institutional settings.

The 2015 Legislature appropriated funds to fill all vacant home and community-based waiver slots for people with developmental disabilities. The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities was in the process of filling these 805 vacant slots when the freeze was announced last week. A total of 324 slots remain unfilled at this point (62 New Opportunities Waiver, 166 Children's Choice, and 96 Supports Waiver slots); however, there are many pending waiver offers that have been sent to people on the waiting list. As some of these individuals accept the offer of waiver services, the number of unfilled slots will be reduced.

For more information on DHH's plan to address the deficit, read the [DHH press release](#).